Mr. Dan Alcorn
1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, Va. 22209

2/15/89

Dear Dan,

I've been chiding Jim in the mistaken belief that he had told me he was impressed by reading the first part of John Davis' Mafia Kingfishing. Yesterday he recalled what he'd said and corrected me. He'd told me that you were impressed.

Dave Wrone asked me to read and annotate the book. I've done that and mailed it back to him. It is a bad, a very bad book. To call most of it bullshit would be to praise it because bullshit can be put to a good use. This crap cannot be.

If you eliminate what is based on conjecture less than a third would remain. Separate from this is how reasonable his conjectures are. Most are not reasonable.

He began with a theory and twisted everything to fit that theory and in fact there is no way of doing that honestly and factually. Blakey also began with that theory and he could not really do anything with it either. If you want me can discuss this sometime.

There are so many minor errors of fact in the book they raise questions about almost anything he says. Some might be attributed to carelessness. If so, given the subject-matter you can't trust him if he is merely careless.

I give you an example involving me, page 404 or 414. There is not a word of what he says that is accurate and true and he knew the fadt and the truth. As I thought about this I came to believe, among other things, that he had to invent what he made up as the basis for what he uses it for. Misuses it, that it. With conjectures that are the book's lifeblood. Wasserman was never here. We never met. He wrote me one letter, I wrote him two letters. On my initiative, not his. He never sent anyone here, never asked me for anything that I can recall. (Wasserman was not Marcello's top lawyer. He was a top immigration lawyer Marcello hired for that reason. And Ferrie did not work for Marcello, he worked for the laywers. Gill did not even hire him. He asked Wasserman's OK for hiring him and he got it.) Marcello was only dimly aware of my correspondence with Wasserman. I have the transcript of FBI intercepts in which he speaks of it.

He says he had a "formal" interview of me, whatever that is. None that I am aware of. He certainly never told me he wanted to interview me or was doing it when we spoke and in correspondence. He does not list me in his interviews. Most of our communications not on his getting copies of records were after he told me his book was finished and it had little or nothing to do with the text. This is not a careless error.

What I suppose is careless is his describing Gary Shaw as a Dallas reporter. This and other things like it, I felt, came from his getting information verbally and getting it wrong. Du Brueys for deBrueys is another example of this. He can't have looked at many FBI New Orleans records and have made this mistake.

He, Scheim and others went for the bait I think was provided by the CIA but I'm not sure of this. Rancid bait it is, and any checking of the records shows that there was no reduction in mafia prosecutions while Bobby remained AG and he did remain until he wanted to leave. The successful prosecutions of Marcello were after Bobby went. So, in addition to being silly save to wishful thinkers in fact it was quite wrong and did not happen. This seems to both er nobody, however. People go for theories like they were reading a novel. I have a hunch that his original proposal was for a book on Marcello not the assassination. He could have had a good book if he had limited himself to that. Now he has undermined what he has on Marcello by the trahs and baseless conjectures.

If as he thinks Jim has an extra copy of Scheim's I'll annotate it, too.

Best wishes,

Harold